San Diego Association of Governments

BORDERS COMMITTEE

October 28, 2005

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 1b

Action Requested: APPROVE

BORDERS COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS
Meeting of September 23, 2005

SANDAG’s Executive Director noted that neither the Borders Chair nor Vice Chair were able to attend today’s meeting. He indicated that in order for the Committee to have its meeting today, the members would need to vote to have one of them serve as the acting Chair.

Action: Vice Mayor Harris-Ebert (North County Inland) made the motion and Chairwoman Slater-Price (County of San Diego) seconded the motion to vote Immediate Past Chair, Deputy Mayor Crawford (North County Coastal) as its acting Chair for today’s meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the San Diego Association of Governments Borders Committee was called to order at 12:38 p.m. by Deputy Mayor Crawford (North County Coastal). The attendance sheet for the meeting is attached.

Chair Crawford noted that Haydee Martinez, from IMPLAN, will join the group today. She welcomed all to the meeting. Self-introductions were made.

Chair Crawford announced that to commemorate the strength and sacrifice of Native American people throughout history, California has declared the fourth Friday in September as Native American Day. This past week, California Tribal leaders have been meeting in Sacramento at a Tribal Leadership Conference and Summit in honor of California Indian Day. Chairman Smith (SCTCA) is participating in the conference and so is unable to attend today’s meeting and has extended his apologies. She mentioned that Chris Deavers will be representing the Southern California Tribal Chairmen’s Association (SCTCA) in lieu of Chairman Smith and Chairman Kevin Siva, from Los Coyotes, representing the Reservation Transportation Association (RTA), is also attending the meeting today. She added that Councilmember Connelly from Campo will also be attending today’s meeting representing the Kumeyaay-Diegueño Unity. Chair Crawford also extended condolences in observance of Barona’s Vice Chair, Donald LaChappa’s recent passing.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

   None.
Angelika Villagrana, representing the COBRO, noted that for past years, there has been a Binational Summer Conference. This year, however, there has been more planning and COBRO recommended having two planning workshops. The first will be held in National City on October 3, 2005 and the second will be held in Otay Mesa on October 11, 2005. Each workshop will have different participants, from both sides of the border. Hopefully, from these workshops recommendations will be made and worked toward over the upcoming year. She encouraged all to distribute workshop flyers to the public and requested that the members attend at least one, if not both, workshops.

Staff stated they are excited about this opportunity and provided background on how this planning process developed. To address important border issues, in Fiscal Year 2006, staff started working on the preparation of the Otay Mesa - Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Strategic Plan by following two directions: (1) the planning process itself; and (2) the collaboration process. SANDAG’s focus on Border issues has been described in the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP), which identified the need for binational planning. At the last Binational Summer Conference, it was determined that more effort was needed to focus on implementation as opposed to planning. The Border Wait Times Study and the recent tours of Otay Mesa and Tijuana both brought attention to this need. For the preparation of this Strategic Plan, other projects were considered as the I-15 Interregional Partnership between San Diego and western Riverside County. The Strategic Plan will include the formation of a decision making mechanism, a strategic planning process and an early action program. The process of public outreach, which was modeled after the RCP process, was built into the work program. Staff worked with a Project Development Team to identify a proposed study area to focus on. Staff’s efforts have been coordinated with other community plans including the City of San Diego’s Otay Mesa community planning area, the County of San Diego’s East Otay Mesa community planning area including Otay Lakes, the eastern portion of the City of Chula Vista east of Interstate 805 (I-805) and south of Olympic Parkway, and the planning areas of Mesa de Otay and Centenario, which includes the Alamar River in the City of Tijuana.

The Collaboration process began with the identification of stakeholders, a decision making structure and public outreach. Stakeholders were identified in the United States, on both local, state and federal levels, as well as their counterparts on the Mexican side of the border. In addition to the Borders Committee, the decision making structure will include a technical/stakeholders group and a joint development team. A public outreach effort will be undertaken and a strategic planning process will include issue identification, goals and objectives, an Early Action Plan (EAP) and a final strategic plan. Issue areas identified are transportation, economic development, housing and the environment. Topics for discussion will include transportation, including a proposed new Port of Entry (POE), improvements to the existing Otay Mesa POE, interregional commuting patterns and improved crossborder and regional public transportation. Mayor milestones in this process are the initial meetings with stakeholders; the binational public workshops; a public outreach effort on a draft EAP; presentation of the draft EAP to Borders Committee for review and comment;
Councilmember Monroe (South County) thanked the COBRO for its assistance regarding Borders issues. Another group that has been instrumental in crossborder issues is the South County Economic Development Council (South County EDC). The Borders Committee should be encouraged to collaborate more with them. He noted that there are several issues near the border that should be considered, such as a potential cross border terminal for Tijuana’s International Airport, freight issues at the port of entry, and referred to banking opportunities or some kind of way that collaboration of funding between the two countries. Staff responded that those are all good ideas which can be investigated.

Councilmember Monroe expressed concern about funding binational projects. Staff stated that it needs to be determined how these projects will be funded. However, the U.S. needs to learn how to help itself. The financial component of the proposed plan will allow for the plans to be implemented. There is interest from elected officials on the Mexican side of the border so this issue has not gone unnoticed.

Chair Crawford stated that tours to the Otay Mesa area and to Mexico have brought to reality the issues that exist near the border and show the need for more crossborder collaboration. She agreed that there is a need to find a way to work with our counterparts across the border to preserve the conservation areas that affect both areas. The truck traffic issues will bring up health concerns that will also need to be addressed. She asked how the Strategic Plan’s timeline coincides with the City of San Diego’s Community Plan update timetable to avoid duplication of efforts. Staff indicated that they have met with the City of San Diego to discuss that issue. It appears that both plans are pretty much in line with each other. The City of San Diego will be releasing its community plan next summer at which time SANDAG will be releasing its Early Action plan.

Chair Crawford noted that the first Binational Workshop will be held in a different location and that should be reiterated to those people that regularly attend the workshops. Regarding the October 11th workshop, she asked if transportation will be made available for those that need it. Staff replied that for the October 3rd workshop, there will be a map with directions posted on the SANDAG website and, for the October 11th workshop, transportation will be made available for those that need it. Currently, the thought is for those that need transportation to park near the border where a bus will pick them up.

Howard Williams (San Diego County Water Authority) noted that airports are business assets and it only takes a handful of people to make noise around an airport. He suggested that protection of the airport be a primary objective. Staff mentioned that planning studies concerning Brown Field will address compatibility issues. Staff added that the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority and the City of San Diego are already working on this issue. SANDAG will focus on ground transportation and habitat but will report on the efforts of the other agencies.

Chris Devers (SCTCA) stated that collaboration should also include the tribal governments that have habitat in those areas near and around the border.
Councilmember Buckley (County of Riverside) stated that there is an issue of fees that needs to be addressed. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) conducted a study regarding fees at the Port of Los Angeles. The results of the study determined that a fee should be charged to finance infrastructure or mitigate impacts. The fee would be $200 per container. A similar study should be done in the San Diego/Mexico border area. He added that he is excited about the idea of a joint airport.

Action: The Committee received this item for information.

3. ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF BORDER WAIT TIMES AT THE SAN DIEGO-BAJA CALIFORNIA BORDER REGION: SUMMARY OF CROSSBORDER SURVEY RESULTS (INFORMATION)

Staff noted that at a previous meeting, the Committee was presented with the findings of the study that estimated the economic impacts of border wait times for crossborder personal travel in the San Diego-Baja California Region. Today’s presentation will provide information on why people cross the border. There are more than 60 million trips that cross the San Diego–Baja California border annually, in both directions. More than half of those trips are for shopping or recreation. Ten million of those trips are for work or business. More than 90% of the crossborder trips are local as they start or end in the San Diego or Tijuana/Tecate region. Staff noted that the most common reasons to cross the border for people who live in Mexico are to go shopping, run errands, go to work and visit family and friends. The most common reasons for people who live in the United States are to visit family and friends, to go shopping, run errands and to go to work.

The study surveys asked how long people expected to wait to cross the border. The expected wait time was similar for both people who live in Mexico and people who live in the U.S. Average expected wait times for people who live in Mexico and cross to the United States is approximately 48 minutes while for people who live in the United States and cross to Mexico is about 53 minutes. About fifty percent of crossborder travelers that commute from both sides of the border, were able to work the same number of hours if the wait times were an hour extra to the estimated time. Staff reviewed other responses from the survey, including if travelers would be willing to pay to cross the border at an expedited crossing at the proposed East Otay Mesa Port of Entry (POE). Over 59% of the people were agreeable.

Chairwoman Slater-Price (County of San Diego) pointed out that Senator Feinstein’s 1994 proposal to cross the border for $1 would have passed, the region would be farther along than what it is today.

Bill Figge (Caltrans) stated that Caltrans recently identified funding to conduct a similar study in Imperial County regarding people that that are crossing the border at the Calexico-Mexicali POE. If there is enough funding, the Andrade-Algodones POE will also be studied.

Staff stated that the key is not just to conduct a study but to develop an econometric model than can be calibrated and made better to ensure that the model will provide real-time estimates. This will allow the policymakers to see what is happening at the border at all times.
Councilmember Buckley suggested that funding be diverted from the U.S. Customs Department to be used for infrastructure purposes.

**Action:** The Committee received this item for information.

4. **TOPICS FOR JOINT MEETING WITH THE ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION)**

Staff reported that San Diego and Orange County share major transportation issues, including the busy I-5 corridor and the second busiest rail corridor in the nation. Staff from both agencies has started regular meetings and recommends a joint meeting of the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board members and the Borders Committee. Some possible topics of conversation would include I-5 corridor projects, Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) updates, TransNet lessons and passenger rail improvements. The staff recommendation is to discuss the topics and hold a joint meeting with the OCTA Regional Planning Committee and the Borders Committee at the October 28, 2005 meeting.

Chair Crawford asked where the proposed meeting would be held. Staff responded that the meeting would be held in SANDAG.

Staff added that the Transportation Committee should also be included in this joint meeting.

Councilmember Monroe commented that this issue could include all Policy Advisory Committee members, including the Borders Committee. Staff replied that they will make a better effort to include representatives from all of the Policy Advisory Committees.

Chair Crawford noted that earlier this year, the Borders Committee met jointly with the Southern California Association of Governments’ (SCAG) Southwest Compact Task Force. Staff added that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss Mega Region’s - SCAG’s 2% plan - and SANDAG’s Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) and to determine a way to coordinate those efforts. Staff also noted that elected officials from SANDAG and SCAG recently held a joint meeting to discuss issues of mutual concern, which they try to do quarterly. At that meeting, the leadership agreed to hold a joint policy meeting with SCAG’s Board members in the future.

Vice Mayor Harris-Ebert stated that she didn’t know anything about that meeting. Staff replied that the idea is to invite the Chairs and Vice Chairs of each Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) to those meetings. It was suggested that if those individuals are unable to attend, other members of the PAC’s should be invited.

Councilmember Buckley indicated that he was invited to the joint meeting as a SCAG member, not a Borders Committee member. He suggested that eventually, he would like to see a meeting held that would include all Councils of Governments.

Staff noted that the OCTA is reaching out to San Diego to better coordinate efforts between the regions.
Councilmember Heebner (North County Coastal) mentioned that she would like to include an agenda item to discuss disaster preparedness. Staff stated that the County of San Diego has taken the lead on that issue.

Chairwoman Slater-Price indicated that the County of San Diego has an Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP) and that is very much removed from politics - which is a strength and a weakness. The group’s next meeting will be held on December 8, 2005. She mentioned that the Borders Committee could consider this issue as a component in the overall transportation strategy. There needs to be a joint effort because the group can only make recommendations but needs the political will to enforce the recommendations. She stated that she can request that the head of the OEP to make a presentation to the Borders Committee regarding this issue. She added that all the group’s members are first responders with the only political person being the Chair, which happens to be one of the County Board of Supervisors. Staff stated that this item can be added to the list of topics for the joint meeting. There should be a way to create a joint effort with the first responders.

Staff noted that the federal government has required that safety and security be additional topics required in the update of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

5. UPDATE ON TRIBAL SUMMIT PLANNING (DISCUSSION)

Kevin Siva, Chairman of the Reservation Transportation Authority (RTA), provided a brief background on how the RTA became involved in tribal liaison efforts at SANDAG. RTA was awarded a 2004 grant from Caltrans to work on strengthening tribal involvement in transportation planning and to improve communications between Southern California tribes and their respective Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Through this grant the RTA has been working with both SANDAG and SCAG to improve tribal relations. Great things are happening with the communication between the County, Cities, and SANDAG at this time, but there is much work to be done. In August the RTA and SANDAG signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in which each agency indicated how they would like to approach the involvement of tribal nations in the transportation planning process with a particular focus on the upcoming update of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The RTA sees the Tribal Summit as a opportunity for elected tribal leaders and the elected local officials through the SANDAG Board to get together and begin to examine issues they have in common. The RTA is going to work with the planning taskforce to make sure that the planning is inclusive. Chairman Siva sees the summit as a communication effort that he doesn’t want to see fail. There are many overlapping issues, which go beyond gaming, including avenues for economic development, improvements in education and transportation as well as better infrastructure. He took as an example the collaboration between tribal and non-tribal communities in the face of the Firestorm in 2003. On his reservation there is one road in and one road out, making rescue efforts and firefighting difficult. Many local firefighters that prevented the tribes from losing everything that they have. At the same time, tribal firefighters helped out non-tribal communities in other parts of the region. The tribes need to begin to think about these types of issues together. There are some tribes that are beginning to create their own transportation plans and are not coordinating them with each other. Becoming involved in regional decision-making in planning will strengthen the tribes’ own ability to plan for their own nations. The RTA is
encouraging tribes to get involved. The Borders Committee is an excellent forum for discussing issues of concern. The tribes can do anything that they want to, if they do it in the right way. The purpose of the summit is to bring the tribes together, recognize their own issues, recognize their overlapping issues, talk and utilize the Cities, County and SANDAG as resources to help them resolve their issues individually as well as collectively. Historically, tribes don’t like to share their information unless absolutely necessary. Experience has shown too many times that information shared has been taken from them and used against them. It is time to overcome that mentality. The issues of concern to non-gaming and gaming tribes are often quite different. He is confident that by constructive dialogue the issues can be raised, discussed and dealt with collaboratively. The Tribal Summit is the first step. The taskforce is examining possible dates for the Tribal Summit, including Feb 10 and March 10 of 2006. Chairman Siva noted that SANDAG staff recommended a 10am – 2pm timeframe, but he respectfully suggested a longer period if possible. Chairman Smith has offered to host the Tribal Summit at the Pala Reservation.

Chair Crawford thanked Chairman Siva for his comments.

Councilmember Monroe requested that Chairman Siva speak with the SANDAG Executive Director regarding the format of the joint meeting that was held with the elected officials in Mexico and the SANDAG Board. He noted that that first meeting was more of a pro-forma where general issues were discussed and they didn’t focus on any contentious issues.

Chair Crawford indicated that there was a first meeting held with the tribal governments approximately two years ago. This proposed meeting is to specifically discuss transportation issues within the context of the Regional Transportation Plan update.

Chairman Siva agreed and stated that he will take Councilmember Monroe’s comments under advisement. At the Summit, the hope is to gain ideas for better collaboration between the tribal governments. Staff mentioned that one of the techniques that SANDAG has used at workshops in the past is interactive technology. This will make it safe for people to say what they’re thinking anonymously. It has been a good tool to analyze where the strengths and weaknesses lie which will allow for better communication.

Chair Crawford suggested that a specific survey or questions be developed that people can respond to.

Staff added that in the first part of the Summit tribes could present their respective issues and then later the interactive survey could be implemented between both elected tribal officials and the SANDAG Board. The issues presented in the interactive survey would be prepared in advance and developed collaboratively with the RTA and the SCTCA. The survey could be used to get a sense of where the consensus is between the tribal governments.

Chair Crawford commented that that method could lay the foundation, get the issues out, allow people to express themselves and have fun doing it.

Staff stated that SANDAG staff can sit down with Chairman Siva, show him the system and get his input to see if this technology can add value to the summit.
Chair Crawford pointed out that the timing of the summit would work for the SANDAG Board of Directors. She was cautious of the February date as it would be immediately after the Board Retreat. Perhaps the March date would be preferable. The Summit would be hosted at the Pala Reservation and the Board members would plan to spend the bulk of the day at the meeting.

Councilmember Heebner questioned if the tribal governments are looking to SANDAG for what they can offer them.

Chairman Siva stated that the summit will be something great. It will allow the tribal governments and SANDAG to get to know each other. He indicated that he hopes that the SANDAG Board members realize how their expertise can help the tribes. There is a genuine interest in how the two groups can effectively interact with each other. Chairman Siva welcomed the input regarding the interactive concept.

Staff commented that Caltrans and SANDAG conducted a transportation needs assessment in the form of a face-to-face survey conducted with tribal transportation staff. Caltrans and SANDAG staff currently working on the report and a timeline for presenting the results to the SCTCA. The results of the needs assessment could serve as the basis for the interactive component of the Tribal Summit. Part of the process of collecting the opinions of the tribes on their transportation needs was returning the findings to them directly.

Councilmember Heebner suggested that a case study be shown to the tribes where they can see how working together collaboratively can help resolve some of the tribal issues.

Chairman Siva stated that is an excellent idea.

Mayor Pro Tem Gallo (North County Inland) suggested that the expectations of the summit should be laid out in advance.

Chairman Siva stated that the bottom line is that the tribal governments need to learn how to work together. Lack of communication between the tribes is an issue that has been happening far too long and needs to be resolved.

Chair Crawford thanked Chairman Siva for his input and mentioned that she is looking forward to updates on the progress of the Summit in the future.

6. ORAL PRESENTATION ON THE KUMEYAAY-DIEGUENO UNITY (INFORMATION)

SANDAG is pursuing government-to-government relations with area tribes in a variety of ways. The Borders Committee has been assigned the overall responsibility for building relationships with various tribal organizations to strengthen communication with tribal nations in the region. One such organization is the Kumeyaay-Diegueño Unity which convenes the 12 bands of Kumeyaay tribes in the San Diego region.
Chair Crawford introduced Councilmember Mike Connolly Miskwich, from the Campo Band of Kumeyaay, who will provide the Committee with a brief introduction about the intertribal group.

Councilmember Connolly, noted that the group is still relatively informal at this stage; it is principally a mechanism for the 12 Kumeyaay tribes to discuss issues of mutual concern and act together when deemed appropriate. He provide a brief overview of the history of the Kumeyaay Indians in the region. In 1852, a treaty was negotiated in the treaty of Santa Ysabel between the U.S. and the Nations of Diegueño Indians. However, the recently formed California Senate disregarded the treaties, and in fact, directed their Congressional delegates to hide the treaties and not allow them to be ratified. The California Indian Nations were never informed of this. During its first years as a State, California had a policy of extermination, funding militia with public funds to murder Indians, take their land, and submit their families to servitude. From 1850 to 1860, 90% of the Indians in California were extinguished. From 1875 to 1893, most of the reservations that currently exist in the County were created by Executive Order, which is different from a treaty. In Mexico, there are four indigenous communities known as ejidos, where Kumeyaay tribes live. He shared with the Committee some of the topics that are discussed between the Kumeyaay Indians. Kumeyaay Unity Topics include: child welfare, water, Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), cultural/historical topics, Kumeyaay Border Task Force (KBTF), environment, local government relations and meeting with political candidates. When the reservations were originally created, it was for the sole purpose and use of the Indians, which currently the state is trying to undermine. The problem is going to continue to grow and hopefully the Borders Committee can help prevent that from happening. He suggested that SANDAG could use the Kumeyaay Unity as another forum for sharing information that the agency thinks would be of concern to the tribes. In the same vein, the Kumeyaay Unity will bring forward issues they feel should be discussed.

Councilmember Monroe noted his experience with the Kumeyaay nation was enlightening and very constructive. It was motivated by the finding of a Kumeyaay artifact during the undergrounding of utilities in Coronado a few years ago. His experience as an elected official working with Kumeyaay authorities was excellent.

Action: The Committee accepted this item for information.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

The next meeting of the Borders Committee will be held from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Friday, October 28, 2005.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Crawford adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.
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**ADVISORY/LIAISON MEMBERS**

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<td>Howard Williams</td>
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